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MedCenter Extra

BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER, BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE, PUBLIC HEALTH AND DENTAL MEDICINE

Oct. 9, 1997

BMC reaches agreement with SEIU Local 285 nurses

After several months of negotiations, the hospital and the SEIU Local 285 registered nurses and licensed practical nurses have reached agreement on a new two-year contract.

The new contract is subject to ratification by the members of the union, which is expected next week. The SEIU Local 285 represents approximately 60 percent of the nursing staff at BMC. The new contract marks the fourth agreement the hospital has reached in the past week with four unions, representing more than 2,200 hospital employees.

"We are proud of our nurses, value their professional role at the bedside and respect their commitment to patient care," says Patricia Webb, vice president of Human Resources at BMC. "This win-win contract is good for the hospital, good for the nurses, and most importantly, good for our patients."

The fair and equitable agreement gives the hospital the flexibility in operational and staffing issues required to respond to patient needs, while providing enhanced benefits to the nurses. Improvements include increased wages that bring the union members to parity with other employees over the period of the contract, increased compensated holidays and improved health insurance.

The hospital is continuing to negotiate with the Massachusetts Nurses

Association (MNA) and remains optimistic about reaching an agreement.

On Tuesday, Oct. 7, the MNA voted by secret ballot to authorize a strike. This action is part of the ongoing negotiations and is not a strike. ♦

Bills due by Oct. 13

All BMC bills related to the past fiscal year must be received by the Accounts Payable Department no later than noon on Monday, Oct. 13.

Any departments with bills that have not been submitted by the deadline because there is a discrepancy, or the invoice for services has not yet been received, must e-mail or send a memo to the appropriate accounting department so an expense accrual can be made. The e-mail or memo should include: department, account number, sub-code and cost center, vendor name, the dollar amount and the date services or materials were received.

It is vital that all invoices and accruals are processed to ensure the hospital's fiscal 1997 financial statements are accurate, and no departments are charged in fiscal 1998 for expenses incurred this past year. ♦